

the aggregate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars. And they shall not use or appropriate the proceeds of the internal improvement companies, or of the State tax, now levied, or which may hereafter be levied, to pay off the public debt [or] to any other purposes until the interest and debt are fully paid or the sinking fund shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt; but the General Assembly may, without laying a tax, borrow an amount never to exceed fifty thousand dollars to meet temporary deficiencies in the Treasury, and may contract debts to any amount that may be necessary for the defence of the State. And provided further that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the raising of funds for the purpose of aiding or compensating in such manner or way as the General Assembly of the State shall deem proper, those citizens of the State who have served, with honor, their country and State in time of war; provided, however, that such action of the General Assembly shall be effective only when submitted to and approved by a vote of the people of the State at the General Election next following the enactment of such legislation.*

SEC. 35. No extra compensation shall be granted or allowed by the General Assembly to any public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after the service shall have been rendered, or the contract entered into; nor shall the salary or compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office.

35A. Nothing in this Constitution shall exempt the salary or compensation of any judge or other public officer from the imposition by the General Assembly of a non-discriminatory tax upon income.

SEC. 36. No lottery grant shall ever hereafter be authorized by the General Assembly.

SEC. 37. The General Assembly shall pass no law providing for payment by this State for slaves emancipated from servitude in this State; but they shall adopt such measures as they may deem expedient to obtain from the United States compensation for such slaves, and to receive and distribute the same equitably to the persons entitled.

SEC. 38. No person shall be imprisoned for debt.

SEC. 39. The books, papers and accounts of all banks shall be open to inspection under such regulations as may be prescribed by law.†

* Thus amended by Chapter 327, Acts of 1924, ratified by the people November 4, 1924.

† Thus amended by Chapter 151, of the Acts of the Special Session of 1936 and ratified by the people November 3, 1936.